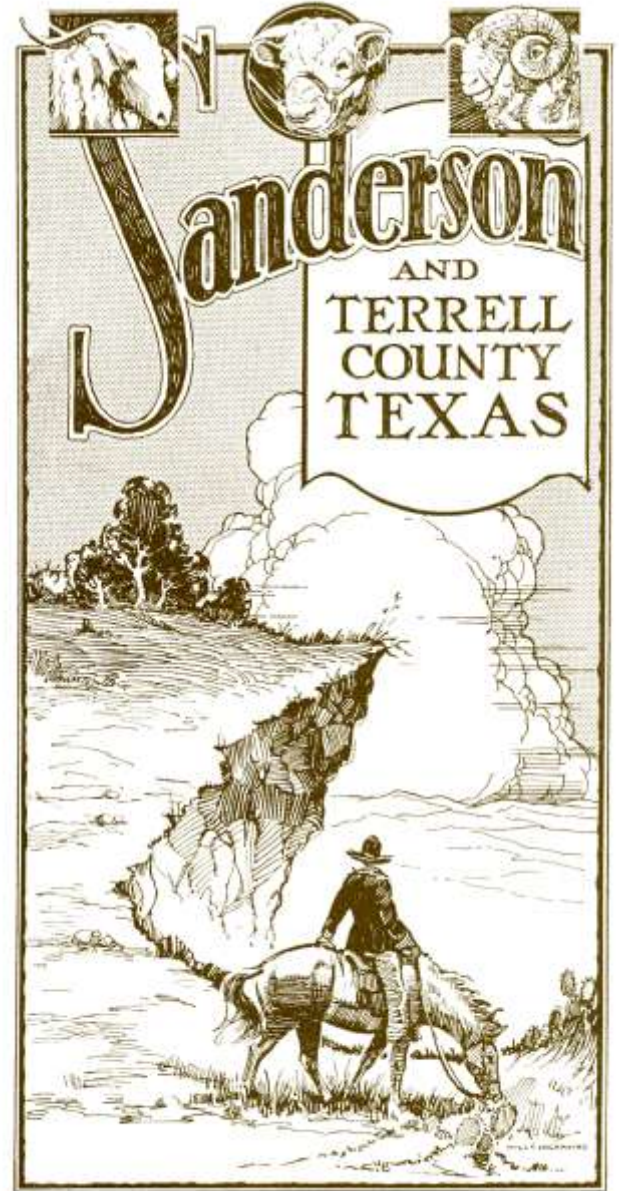


Terrell County Memorial Museum
 PO Box 417
 Sanderson, Texas 79848
 Museum ~ 432-345-2936
 Visitors Center ~ 432-345-2324



Terrell County Memorial Museum

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www.terrellmuseum.info

Welcome to the Terrell County Memorial Museum

The Terrell County Memorial Museum is an eclectic collection of documents, photos and historical objects of our community and our county.

The earliest inhabitants were Native Americans and our collection includes arrow points, knives and scrapers gathered from the area in a time when archeology was not as closely regulated and protected as it is today. Almost everyone picked up artifacts, and in many cases the materials were found only a few years after they were lost. The local geology created natural shelters, many of which were decorated with cave paintings and petroglyphs. Seminole Canyon State Park east of Sanderson allows one to inspect some of this prehistoric artwork up close.

Hispanic and Anglo settlers arrived in the 19th Century, long before the coming of the railroad. We have one room dedicated to ranch life, with many of the objects needed for successful sheep and cattle ranching. Our collection includes saddles, horse tack and sheep shearing equipment, along with dioramas and displays of ranch life as it was.

In 1882 the GH & SA Railway pushed through, creating the southern transcontinental rail route connecting California, Texas and eventually the east coast. It was at that time that a man named Charlie Wilson bought up the land around the future division point on the

railroad and the town of Sanderson was born. A division point contains a depot and roundhouse for repairs, refueling and respite for the crews, who could only work so many hours on a shift. Our collection contains many photos of that era and a sizeable trove of railroad ephemera.

We are fortunate to have a large number of photos and records documenting early life in Sanderson and Terrell County. With over 4500 photos scanned into the Museum database, searching is much easier than in days past.

For the genealogist looking for family members who may have lived in Sanderson at some point, we have a database of interments at our local cemeteries, including photos of grave markers and many with obituaries from the local papers. Much of this is accessible from our Museum website, www.terrellmuseum.info. Our staff is also eager to help you get started or assist you in any way. A bonus is that the Terrell County Court House is just across the street and searching for death certificates and other county documents is very convenient.

The Museum building, built in 1907, was originally the home of the W.H. Lemons family, early residents of Sanderson. Mr. Lemons was the first County Clerk, elected when the county formed in 1905. When he passed away in 1919 his wife was appointed to the position and served until 1930, so the Lemons family figured very prominently in the early history of Terrell County.

Much of the home is as the Lemons daughters left it in 1989 when the house was given to the county as a museum building. The bedroom, din-

ing room and kitchen along the west side of the house are much as they left them, demonstrating what life was like for the middle class in a wild west town.

The rest of the house contains the memorabilia, furniture and documents of many Terrell County families and businesses. The switchboard from the Pumpville store, turn-of-the-century business equipment from the court house, a collection of hand crank phonographs, fireman hats and coats, Masonic items, etc. etc. All are brought to life by our guides who can tell you about most items in the Museum. One can spend many an hour in this small museum and wonder where the time went!

In the Museum yard is an early fire truck, which is scheduled to be restored in the future. Also behind the Museum is the old Dryden Methodist Church building. Rescued from Dryden, Texas, the only other community in Terrell County and populated by only a few souls, the building was moved to the Museum grounds. It was painted and restored and is still used for Bible studies and the annual Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, as well as a display area for memorabilia from Terrell County

Please come visit...there's lots to see!

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday: 10 to 12 & 1 to 4

Saturday by appointment

Museum phone 432-345-2936